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## Taking a shot at normalcy

A Highlands resident shows off her sticker, indicating she received her first vaccination dose on Wednesday, April 21 at the Todd's Independent Grocer DRUGStore in Haliburton. Since the announcement on Friday, April 23 allowing individuals older than 40 to register for COVID-19 vaccinations at pharmacies around the province, there has been a surge of registrations. The other pharmacies offering doses in Haliburton include the Shoppers Drug Mart and Rexall pharmacies. / DARREN LUM Staff

## Athletes serve as role-models for BIPOC in community, says committee member

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

The JDHES student-led effort to have Haliburton-raised Olympian Lesley Tashlin and former CFLer Taly Williams added to the wall of athletes at the A.J. LaRue Arena has led to the creation of a new sub-committee.

There was plenty of deliberation at a

recent Dysart et al cultural resource committee virtual meeting on Friday, April 23, which included the criteria selection for new murals, the approach to fundraising and for the message the municipality wanted to send to the public about what recognizing these athletes will do for the community.

Dysart Mayor Andrea Roberts said she appreciates the students' efforts, which began with an email addressed to her and then led to the students' presenting their

case with background about the athletes' achievements to council, who turned over the request to the Dysart Cultural Resource Committee to discuss the matter.

Roberts noted the first two athletes added were NHLers Ron Stackhouse and Bernie Nicholls, which was followed by two additional NHL players – Cody Hodgson and Matt Duchene – and a CFL player, Mike Bradley. The last three were made possible, as far as Roberts

knows, due to a donation from an anonymous donor. Roberts said there wasn't any knowledge about how the first two murals were funded.

The fact that there wasn't any policy or outlined criteria is the issue.

"There was never a policy. There was never that sort of guideline. It's left this request in sort of a limbo. Oh, what do we do with it? First of all we have no money. I can tell you ... those last few [murals]

see COMMITTEE page 5

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# Schmale critical of 'monstrous' 2021 federal budget

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale is concerned by the figures included in the 2021 federal budget, which he has labelled a "super spreader of spending."

Tabled by Canada's finance minister Chrystia Freeland last Monday [April 19], the budget, which is the Liberal government's first in two years, includes an unprecedented \$101.4 billion in new spending over the next three years. That money, Freeland said, will help to support the country through this third wave of COVID-19 and stimulate the economic recovery post-pandemic.

The crown jewel of the mammoth 700-page document is \$30 billion in spending over the next five years, and \$8.3 billion per year after that, to establish and sustain a new national child care program. A further \$17.6 billion has been set aside for



Local MP Jamie Schmale didn't like what he saw in the 2021 federal budget. /FILE PHOTO

"green recovery," money that will help to conserve 25 per cent of Canada's lands and oceans by 2025.

Keeping up with the green theme, \$4.4 billion was set aside to help homeowners complete green retrofits on their

homes through interest-free loans of up to \$40,000; \$3 billion will be invested over five years to help provinces and territories improve long-term care; \$2.5 billion to build and repair 35,000 housing units for vulnerable Canadians; \$1 billion for the tourism sector to support festivals and cultural events; and \$300 million to support Black and other underrepresented entrepreneurs.

There was just one figure, however, that Schmale wanted to focus on – that being the federal deficit, which is slated at \$354.2 billion in 2020/21. In total, the federal debt is now in excess of \$1 trillion.

"The unfortunate thing about all of this new spending is that the federal government is effectively putting it on the credit card," Schmale said. "... By 2026, under the government's current plan, we're going to be spending \$39 billion per year on interest payments on our debt. There's absolutely no planning here – the Liberals are just increasing their spending on the backs of future generations."

While there has been widespread support, particularly from the public, for the proposed national child care program, Schmale believes the Liberals are creating a substantial problem for future governments, and taxpayers, down the road.

It should be pointed out too that the initiative, as proposed, would require buy-in from all Canadian provinces and territories, with the feds suggesting a 50/50 cost sharing model.

"This national child care program is something that the provinces weren't asking for. It's going to require a substantial buy-in, and I'm not sure there is any province in this confederation that is so flush with cash right now that they'd be willing to take on another structural program that will require funding way into the future," Schmale said. "This program will not accomplish what the government hopes it will, and that's the unfortunate part."

Schmale said the federal initiative is being modelled after Quebec's provincial daycare program, which has a massive waiting list. Only "traditional" day-

care facilities will qualify for funding too, Schmale says, with individuals who have started a home-based daycare set to miss out on any subsidy or support.

The result of this, he believes, is that child care services will become more unaffordable for the average Canadian in the future.

"What will happen, because of government insertion into the marketplace, it will eviscerate competition. And when you start to get rid of competition... your price goes up and your quality goes down," Schmale said.

Given the sheer amount of spending outlined throughout the document, Schmale was surprised there wasn't more money included to support the individual provincial health services, which are struggling mightily right now through the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"That was the one thing the provinces and territories were crying out for most, was help with health care transfers. They didn't want some of the other things that have been included," Schmale noted.

He believes the federal government's number one priority moving forward should be trying to secure as many doses of COVID-19 vaccine as is possible, and that any excess funds – such as the \$100 million outlined for pandemic relief, which Schmale believes will essentially serve as a government slush fund to do with as they please – should be used solely for vaccine relief.

It isn't all negative though, Schmale says. He likes that the federal government is extending some of its wage subsidy programs and introducing new hiring credits, while he commended the fact that money has, once again, been set aside to bolster internet and broadband connectivity in rural communities.

That's particularly important for communities like Haliburton County, Schmale says, particularly right now when more people than ever before are working from home.

Another area of concern, and something that will impact Canadians of all ages, was the government's inability to address the red-hot housing market. According to the Canadian Real Estate Association [CREA], from February 2020 to February 2021, the national housing market saw a price increase of 25 per cent, with the average cost of a home rising from approximately \$542,000 to \$678,000.

"There's nothing in the budget, whether it be funding or any kind of plan, to address the housing prices, or try to cool the market," Schmale said, adding that a bloated housing market makes things more expensive for everyone, with rental rates going up, and cost for goods and services also going up to offset the extra costs associated with home ownership.

## Echo recognized for continued excellence at 2020 OCNA Awards

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The *Haliburton County Echo* scooped five first-place finishes, two second-place finishes and three third-place finishes at the Ontario Community Newspaper Association's 2020 Better Newspaper Competition.

During a virtual ceremony held on Friday afternoon [April 23], the *Echo* was recognized for its work across several categories.

Reporter Sue Tiffin took first in the Environment Writing category for her feature story on At Last Forest Schools, which opened a facility at Abbey Gardens last spring, just prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Former editor Jenn Watt was recognized for her work on a story shining a light on some of the issues Ontario's teachers' associations had with the provincial government during last year's school strikes, securing the top award in the Education Writing category.

Watt also took first-place in the Heritage category, writing about a pair of local women who developed a strong bond and long-lasting friendship having worked together on the Family Roots pilot project run by SIRCH Community Services.

Having long forged a reputation as one of the best photo journalists in Ontario

over a career that has spanned almost two decades, Darren Lum was officially recognized as the OCNA's 2020 Photographer of the Year. Lum also took first-place for Best Sports Photo for a perfectly-timed shot while covering the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawks senior basketball team last spring.

The *Echo* took second-place in the Best Sports Section category, for a story and collection of photos covering the Red Hawks' basketball team, while Watt took second in the Health and Wellness category for her piece on a PSW shortage in Haliburton last year that left a local man near helpless, without the care he needed to get by day-to-day.

An entertaining piece by Lum on a local artist's daily account of the COVID-19 pandemic through a series of self-portraits secured third-place in the Arts and Entertainment category, while Watt was similarly recognized for her creativity in Headline Writing.

The *Echo* was then honoured with the third-place award in General Excellence in its circulation category.

Sister publication the *Minden Times* also had quite the haul this year, taking home three prizes. Popular writer Jim Poling was recognized as Ontario's Columnist of the Year, while the publication also received a second-place award in Education Writing, written by Sue Tiffin, and a third-place award for Best News Story, written by Chad Ingram.

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# Band reflecting on latest album, eyeing next project

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Like the rugged terrain of the Highlands, the album *The Mess We Made* is a raw expression of local experimental punk band, *The Bones of Jim Jones*.

Drawing on a period of life fraught with difficulties that can come with growing up in a small town, there is a pain and honesty that reverberates powerfully throughout the 10-song album, heard in the lyrics, the pace and power behind each song.

The four-piece band includes vocalist and lyricist Seamus Lynch, bassist and guitarist Cam Espina, guitarist Lane Brohm and drummer Braeden Sharp.

They are not only connected through their friendship, but also their shared and sometimes troubled experience growing up in a rural community.

The recent Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduates reflected on their album, produced at a professional music studio in Montreal last summer, and released on Halloween of last year.

Lynch said the album was years in the making, drawing on the lives they have lived.

It's a raw expression of the emotions they felt during their coming-of-age period at school, whether it was with the loss of a friend to suicide, dealing with drug abuse, or the social challenges related to not fitting in with the mainstream crowd.

"I guess the sound is like raw, unfiltered, you know, at times very angry, but also, freeing, aggressive," Lynch said. "It was just whatever we were feeling in that moment in that period where we're talking about in a song. That period of life is kind of like the emotion we were feeling inside, and being able to portray that into a microphone, and into vocals and on drums, guitar and bass. It's kind of just this unfiltered raw whatever came out, came out. It was just a very therapeutic way of helping with a lot of struggles during adolescence."

The base of the band formed when its members were in Grade 7, its first incarnation called *Turn on the Dark*.

It included Brohm, Sharp and Lynch. Although there were a few years when Lynch left, needing to work through personal challenges, he eventually returned to play music with his friends, who had continued to meet regularly to play.

Lynch had been writing poetry and short stories during his absence, but he was missing something creatively. He said he had an epiphany and knew he needed to get back to music, and it led to him rejoining Sharp and Brohm as *The Bones of Jim Jones*. The band worked toward playing a gig held at the Youth Hub in Haliburton, where everything changed.

"That was the first time anybody really saw that side of me," Lynch said. "I was pretty vulnerable on stage. Just how much energy and like sweat and anger and stuff

like that, we put out on stage. I don't think people really expected it a lot."

Espina saw Lynch perform and at the after-party offered his bass playing skills, Lynch admitting he was too scared to ask his talented friend to join.

Lynch said the name of the band and some of the themes of the album are related to the feeling of being stuck in a place, which isn't a commentary about Haliburton County, but has more to do with their experience.

"We feel sometimes, as youth in this community and during these times and ... we feel sometimes we see the elements of being in a cult," he said. "Kind of feeling stuck without resources and people kind of get caught and stuck in and don't see an out. [This album is about a] guy named Wallace who's stuck in a cult and kind of breaking free from that, and going and living his own life away from the cult. That's kind of a metaphor for the small town mindset and breaking away from that."

To make the album, the band lived together for close to 12 days, without any huge issues, Sharp said. There's a level of acceptance among the group. Lynch said the band is unique for how they are all friends outside of music, with established friendships going back more than a decade. It's enabled a strong connection between the members, who can speak their minds without worry of conflict.

The current album is available for sale online (iTunes, Amazon, Spotify), and locally at Russell Red Records and on a website the band plans to launch soon.

The band has also collaborated with other creative young people in the area when it came to their music videos, which were produced by HHSS alumni Rowan Tofflemire and Abe Churko.

Much of the band's sound comes from a love for American singer/songwriter Tom Waits and his distinctive sound, said Lynch.

"I feel like a lot of that experimentation in our sound and versatility and kind of giving a voice more to the underbelly of society and outcasts and stuff like that comes from a lot of inspiration from Tom Waits and the White Stripes," he said.

Lynch, who has listened to Waits his whole life, introduced the rest of the band to the well-known artist. They all fell in love with the sound, particularly bassist Espina.

Espina, a 2018 HHSS graduate, said the process of creating the album, working in the recording studio and then releasing the album, was a childhood dream come true.

"It's like, I don't know, finally having something behind your name ... it just means a lot," he said.

He adds the album took a lot of pain they all had and turned it into an unforgettable highlight.

"The fact we can listen back on it and it will bring the little memories and stuff," Espina said. "That recording process was one of the best weeks in all our lives."

Brohm, the guitarist, said he sees this album as a "stepping stone."



The *Bones of Jim Jones* band of Seamus Lynch, left, Lane Brohm, Braeden Sharp and Cam Espina said the struggles they faced the past several years are the foundation for their last album, *The Mess We Made*. The members, who are working on their next album, *Mad Dogs and Bed Bugs*, said music has helped them work through their challenges. Lynch wants youth to accept themselves for who they are regardless of what people think about them. / DARREN LUM Staff

He'll never forget what happened during the recording of the song, *War Boy*, while in Montreal.

"In the hallway with the mic on the floor and we're stomping around and then some other guys that were recording

in the next studio over also came over and stomped with us as they were walking to their studio," he said.

It was an example of the spontaneous experimentation that occurred while

see 'WE page 11

## Hart pretrial continues May 10

Norman Hart's pretrial continued in a brief virtual court session held on April 19, adjourned to continue on May 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Hart, of Dysart et al, was 33-years-old in 2019 when he was arrested and charged with second-degree murder, on June 18, after Haliburton Highlands OPP were called to a house along High-

land Street in Haliburton where they found the deceased body of Robert James Brown, 49, of Haliburton.

A publication ban is in place at this time. For more information, visit [www.ontariocourtdates.ca](http://www.ontariocourtdates.ca).

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# Covert hits the road for retirement after 46-year career

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Highlands East roads superintendent Earl Covert has retired after 46 years from a job that all started because of a snowfall.

Covert, who has lived in Highland Grove his entire life, graduated from high school in Bancroft and then began working at Wilberforce Veneer and Lumber Company for about two-and-a-half years after school.

"I got laid off on a Friday night," Covert told the *Echo*. "And I knew they were looking for somebody here on the township, so on my way home I stopped in and I saw the former roads superintendent - Tom Elliott. I asked him for a job and he said, 'well, I don't know, I'll see.' We had a big snowfall on Saturday, and on Sunday morning he phoned me and asked me if I could come to work."

Covert was called back to the veneer plant about six weeks later, and so he went to Elliott to ask how long the job with the township might last.

"Tom was very non-committal, so he said, 'I don't know, could be a day, could be a week,'" said Covert. "And since I liked it outside better than inside, I said, 'I'm going to try it. And remember, at that time I'm making \$2.20 at the Veneer plant, and I got \$2.35 from the township. Big difference in pay, eh? Well, 46 years later. But that's how it happened.'"

Covert said he started "at the bottom," following the grader in the summer, throwing stones from the roads, that he said were "like cow paths," at the time. Then in the winter, he said, "we had two



Longtime roads superintendent Earl Covert retired from his position with the Municipality of Highlands East in April. Covert began working for the department after high school and prior to amalgamation, and was celebrated with a Distinguished Service Award last year. /Submitted photo

men and a snowplow so I went on the wing."

Over time, Covert was given a chance to learn to drive a truck, then ran the grader for a little more than a decade until Elliott retired and Covert was hired in his role. After amalgamation, Covert became lead hand, but then after another retirement, again was hired for the roads supervisor role in 2009. Over the years, as expected, there have been some changes.

"I've often told my guys, I've said, too bad you couldn't go back to a couple of days when I started," said Covert. "For example, you know why we have rules



today. I remember at that time, a freezing rain storm, we had to put down the back tailgate on the truck. Two men stood on the back tailgate - and they just did the hills, which is prairie everything in Haliburton County. One man would throw a shovel of sand, and then I'd throw a shovel. He'd throw a shovel, I'd throw a shovel. That's what we did in freezing rain storms, it was terrible. Now, you know, you'd get [killed] if you tried something stupid like that today, eh?"

"Everything has changed so much," he added. "You know back when I started, people just made do with what they had, eh? Today, you chase snowflakes for example in the wintertime, because the laws have changed ... Now we've got the minimum maintenance standards. Back then it was different."

On the roads in earlier days, help when needed wasn't a phone call away.

see HIGHLANDS page 14

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The sub-committee will include representatives from the Cultural Resource Committee, Haliburton Highlands Hall of Fame, town council, and JDHES. /FILE photo



# Committee calls for policy to determine future mural candidates

from page 1

were in the neighbourhood of \$9,000 to \$10,000 for an artist to do those murals ... so at this point, while I commend those athletes and I really was thrilled that students looked at that, and it was about honouring all athletes – is the arena the best place to do that?” she said.

She added that before the meeting she spoke with Pat Kennedy, who is involved with efforts for a Haliburton Highlands Hall of Fame, which has been working on recognizing athletes, teams and builders.

“How do we determine who qualifies? And do we do anymore murals on the arena? We have those murals up now and that any athlete should go through the sports hall of fame. It’s come to our committee because it’s considered art on municipal property,” she said.

Committee member Jim Blake, who also sits on the sports hall of fame committee with Kennedy, said he believes “sports is part of our cultural fabric.”

He believes the municipality needs to establish a policy for who gets honoured and outline the process for how a mural is commissioned. Also, he recognizes there is a lack of funds for these additions, but said a process can be established to raise funds when a nominee is put forward. Blake said the hall of fame can serve as a resource for selection criteria, but that it should be an entirely different thing than the mural wall, which represents a community recognition.

Committee member Anna Babluck, who admitted to being new to the community, said she agrees with a need for structure related to policies, but sees an important component to this discussion that shouldn’t be missed.

“I’m assuming all the other murals are white athletes. Is that correct? Okay, I think we need to make sure that doesn’t slip through the cracks, is that that is really an important piece of identifying these athletes [and they] go up there to serve as role models for BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Colour] children in our community and it’s really important to have that representation ... if that’s the proposal on the table and we need to go through the process, whether it ends up being those athletes or others, I just don’t want to see that lost because of policy,” she said.

Roberts responded saying the first four of the five murals depicted NHL players.

“So, growing up in small-town rural Ontario that’s our population. It was not to discriminate. It wasn’t

to leave anybody out. The criteria was basically because they were NHL, which is pretty incredible. So it’s not at all to discriminate in any way,” she said.

Babluck said that wasn’t her insinuation, but she wanted to make sure her point was addressed moving forward.

“I didn’t mean to imply that it was. From here going forward, it’s something we need to consider,” she said.

Committee member Pat Martin wondered how this issue could affect how other art is installed and applied to other municipal property.

In response to Roberts proposing an existing sub-committee to look at public art policy to include it in their meeting, Blake pointed out how this particular proposal needs to be examined on its own.

“We already have an outdoor gallery on the arena. So, we already set a precedent doing this. Pat’s point is great. So, how does this relate to other places, but right now there is already a gallery of murals representing athletes on the arena,” he said.

He said the students have raised the question about why two incredible athletes haven’t been recognized.

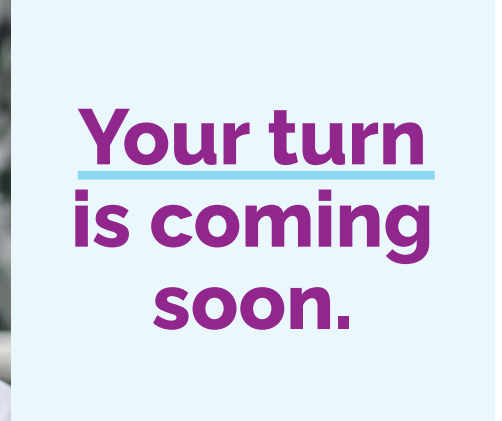
“That’s a piece that doesn’t belong in the public art policy. It’s really a policy about who is going to be recognized, which wouldn’t fall under the public art policy at all,” he said.

The committee then established a sub-committee to develop a recognition policy and criteria for who qualifies to appear on the wall of the A.J. LaRue Arena. It will include cultural resource committee members Victoria Bingham, Jim Blake, a hall of fame committee member, town council representative Nancy Wood-Roberts or Tammy Donaldson and a representative from JDHES.

The JDHES teacher, who facilitated this student effort, Marina Thomazo wrote in an email, “I think the process had a tendency to deviate from the questions we asked, from our end goal, but efficaciously numerous members of the committee chimed in and swerved back to what my students are pointing at, which is the inequity for those two Black athletes. Some members gave convincing food for thought that keeps the momentum.”

She wants to be part of the sub-committee and could also send colleague, teacher Mike van den Hengel, and it will be difficult to choose one student from the class because there are “so many passionate ones.”

Once all the members are appointed the new sub-committee will meet to discuss the matter and then report to the Cultural Resource Committee in June.



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# points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

## An interesting budget

WHEN HALIBURTON-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MP Jamie Schmale called the 2021 federal budget a “super spreader of spending” he wasn’t kidding.

If you read our story on page two of this week’s *Echo*, you’ll know our local MP wasn’t at all impressed with the document, which carried with it a mammoth \$354.2 billion deficit since the onset of the pandemic last year.

That fact isn’t at all surprising given Schmale’s position within the official opposition. It’s his job to find faults with the supports, programs and proposals brought forth by the Liberal government. I was actually pleasantly surprised when he responded after I asked him if there was anything he liked in the budget – anyone that has ever tried to get a politician to look objectively at a rival’s idea or suggestion knows all too well that it is akin to pulling teeth.

Yet, while Schmale criticized the size of the federal debt, that really shouldn’t have come as a surprise to anyone either. In case you didn’t already know, we’re about to enter month 14 of a global pandemic that has brought economies around the world to their knees. The feds have been supporting thousands of businesses, in some way, since this whole mess began last March. Naturally, there are costs associated with that.

It was curious though, that in a year where there has been so much necessary spending to ensure businesses have stayed afloat and people have been able to keep a roof over their head, that the Liberals would decide now is the right time to press forward with an ambitious national child care program.

Don’t get me wrong, this is a need. But at the same time, the Liberals have been talking about this need for almost as long as I’ve been alive, first introducing the idea in 1993. They’ve set aside

\$30 billion over the next five years, with a further \$8.3 billion per year beyond that, to help set up the program and sustain it. On top of that, the provinces and territories are expected to jump on board as 50/50 partners on the proposal. I just don’t know where all this extra money is coming from.

Perhaps we’ll see the sneaky introduction of a new federal or provincial tax on home purchases. With the eye-watering increase in prices over the past 12 months, and the amount of activity, lord knows even a miniscule 0.1 per cent tax in that regard could likely sustain any level of grandiose government scheme for years to come.

I really shouldn’t be giving them any ideas...

By now, you all likely know my thoughts on all things housing. It’s going to get to a point, soon, where action will need to be taken. The longer the federal government ignores the situation, the worse things are going to get. Schmale was right to criticize the Liberals on this account.

The most head scratching decision though, for me was the feds’ seemingly blasé attitude

towards health care funding. Every single hospital, and every single health unit is bursting at the seams right now. If extra money was going to be allocated anywhere, it should have been there.

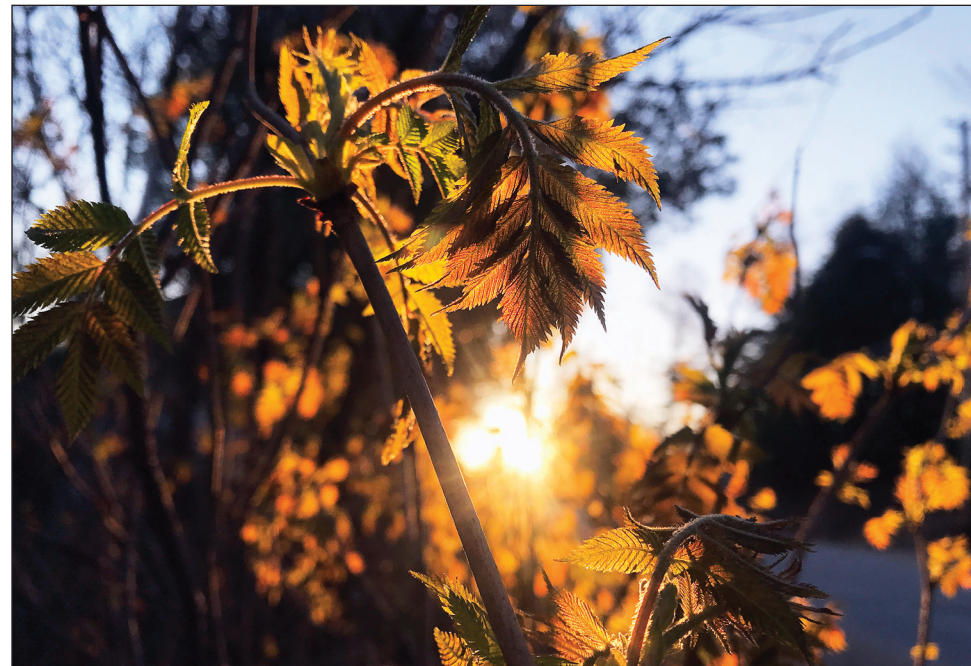
Well, that, or on securing more doses of vaccine. The rollout of vaccine Canada-wide has been nigh on embarrassing in recent months. We’re way behind countries such as the USA and UK, whose residents have returned to a somewhat normal life in recent weeks. Meanwhile, we here in Ontario remain in the midst of a third provincial lockdown, with health experts predicting things will likely get worse before they get better.

We can, in part, thank Justin Trudeau, and whoever else was involved in the botched early negotiations with vaccine suppliers for that.



mike baker

## Editorial



Sunrise glow

by Darren Lum

## Learn to love molluscs

IMOVED HERE, and stayed here because of the hundreds of lakes in Haliburton County. That, and I love nature.

I love to swim, canoe, camp, hike and spend time sitting on my friend’s dock watching the sun go down or come up, or having a glass of wine! I have never had a cottage, but I do consider every lake I visit a treasure.

Every one of us has a responsibility to help keep our lakes healthy for our own well-being, and for the well-being of all the creatures who live in them and, for our great grandchildren. The Lake Kashagawigamog Organization (LKO) is hosting a series of ‘Love Your Lake Zoom Spring Series’ that are excellent for anyone who is interested in the health of lakes.

Jim and I attended one last week called ‘Stayin’ Alive - Environmental threats to our lake and forest creatures.’ The presenter was Rebecca Osborne, who grew up in Mississauga and is a long-time Haliburton cottager. She grew up spending time at the lake investigating, exploring and collecting creatures from the lake to study and over time developed an incredible passion for these lake critters. She is currently an aquatic biology PhD candidate at the University of Guelph, studying the effects of pollution on freshwater molluscs (clams, snails, and slugs).

Rebecca spoke for about 45 min-

utes and her passion and knowledge shone through. I learned that molluscs help clean and filter the water in the lake. The number of molluscs you have in your lake, and the amount of diversity of molluscs are an indicator of the health of your lake.

One thing all of us can do is pay attention to invasive species by ensuring our boats are clean when we put them in the water and ensure that our live bait is purchased locally and follow the rules

of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

She also talked about not planting invasive plant species that can take over a wetland.

It was an informative evening and I have a lot more respect for molluscs. Rebecca has an Instagram account - snailqueen27 if you wish to follow more of her work.

On another note, as volunteers for

the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, Jim and I have been putting up blue bird boxes out at Barnum Creek. This is the time of year to put them up, and make sure your bird boxes are clean. If you can, take a hose and clean them out and make sure they are in good shape for the nesters.

If you are putting up a bird house, the majority of the birds like the hole to face the east and to hang at about five to seven feet high.

There is so much nature around us. I hope it is sustaining you!

Tales from the great



lynda shadbolt

## Green meadow

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# points of view

## Flat earthers

**I**F THERE IS one good thing about this pandemic it is that it has brought out the “interesting and diverse” viewpoints and beliefs held by people. That’s a fancy way of saying ridiculous. For instance, I was totally unaware that there are a group of people who seriously believe that the Earth is flat. I thought that issue had been put to bed when Magellan completed his circumnavigation of the globe in 1522.

Recently, however, I have encountered a few people online who indeed do believe that a) the pandemic is Bill Gates’ way to control us and b) the Earth is flat.

Let me dispel the first issue immediately by pointing out that Bill Gates pretty well invented the personal computer as we know it. Look around you. Exactly, how many more ways do you think he needs to control us?

Dispelling the flat Earth theory is not all that difficult either. First off, you have to ask yourself who else benefits from keeping this knowledge secret? Aside from those influential people in the international globe-making industry, I mean.

I would then point out that there are literally thousands of photos from outer space that also clearly show the Earth is round. Add to that tons of scientific evidence as well. Unfortunately, the flat Earth brain trust would simply label these things as hoaxes.

So I’m going to provide irrefutable proof that should, once

and for all, dispel the idea that the Earth is flat. Cats!

Anyone who has ever owned a cat knows that the Earth cannot possibly be flat. All you have to do is watch any cat when it is on a round table. The first thing that darn cat will do is start knocking everything it can off of the table. They can’t help it. It’s in their DNA.

If the Earth was indeed flat, all the cats on this planet would have already knocked everything off of it. We’d be all missing things that cats would have mischievously batted off the edge of the planet just because, well, that’s what cats do.

I know this might sound like a very flimsy argument for the Earth being round, but, let’s be honest here, I don’t really need a good one – I’m arguing against people who still think the Earth is flat.

Clearly, anyone who thinks the Earth is flat literally 500 years after it was proven to be round, is not about to give up so easily, despite all the science, and photographic proof.

Instead, they are more likely to counter-argue that the edges of the flat Earth are all covered in water, so there is no way a cat could be there to knock something over, since cats hate water.

Touché!

That would be a very valid point in any rational debate where you weren’t allowed to ignore reality. But this is not that.

Here’s the thing. I’d like these flat-Earthers to put up or shut up.

So, I’m going to offer a \$50-million reward to anyone who can prove the Earth is flat by going to the rim of it and taking a photo of them sitting on the edge. It will be paid in cash.

My only condition is you need to take a cat with you.



steve  
galea

Loon Tales



## pic of the past

**A** photograph of the old Walling family home, which was located on the present-day Halbiem subdivision property. The photo appears to have been taken during the first decade of the 1900s, and features Reuben and Harriet Walling. The log home was eventually demolished after the Wallings moved into a more up-to-date house they built between 1910 and 1920. /SUBMITTED BY STEVE HILL

## letters to the editor

# Wealth is poorly distributed

To the Editor:

In the editorial published on April 13, on the subject of a guaranteed basic income, I felt the consideration of how to pay for such a program was incomplete. The first step should be to look to where there is wealth. There is a lot of wealth in this country; it is just poorly distributed. It is poorly distributed because of the design of the tax system. The current system favours people who have extra wealth. Here’s one example: If peo-

ple invest in stocks or mutual funds, or land, the income earned when they sell [called a capital gain] is taxed at a lower rate than a salary. In other words, those who have more than they need to get by can get a tax break on the income that extra money earns. Does that sound fair? A fair tax system could generate the funds required to pay for a guaranteed basic income.

Carolynn Coburn  
West Guilford

# The fine art of butter tarts and yoga

To the Editor,

The other afternoon when I tuned in online to Lynda Shadbolt’s Haliburton Yoga, practitioners were offering up their favourite places to get the best local butter tarts. I’ve always known the city is not the place you treat yourself to a good butter tart—flaky crust, just the right amount of firmness or runniness, choice of raisins or no raisins...

“Become aware of your breath,” spoke Lynda, beginning the meditative yoga flow. Timed five-minute pauses to hold postures on each side of the body restored balance, gave a feeling of spacious-

ness and an opportunity to attune to the stillness of the mind. And in between the poses, Lynda offered us the freedom to move our bodies in any way that felt ‘right’.

After, I felt tremendous gratitude. After I smiled as I sensed the beautiful feeling I got from biting into a great butter tart and that after yoga.

After I donned my mask and went to The Eagle Lake Country Market and bought a tray of the best Maple Butter Tarts.

Barb Rosen  
Haliburton

## COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County

County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)
Haliburton	9	0	98	88	3	1	0
Kawartha Lakes	39	0	704	622	33	43	13
Northumberland	46	3	796	737	21	13	0
Total	94	3	1,598	1,447	57	57	13

## Nine unresolved cases in Haliburton County

Two new cases of COVID-19 were reported in Haliburton County on April 26 by the local health unit, while 13 new cases were reported in City of Kawartha Lakes, and 12 new cases were reported in Northumberland County. Currently there are nine unresolved confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County. Locally, 17 of the cases in Haliburton County have been identified as being variants of concern. A workplace outbreak was declared at Summersweet Custom Design & Build Inc. on April 23. /Screenshot from HKPRDHU website



# Optimism for better times despite poor maple syrup season

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Area producers are finding the golden colour to an otherwise less-than-sweet season for maple syrup production in what can only be described as a down year when it comes to yields.

The website [www.onmaplesyrup.ca](http://www.onmaplesyrup.ca), which includes contributors from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs maple syrup team, has labelled 2021 as the "toughest year on record, with the exception of 2012."

It continues, "Most Ontario producers will not be making changes to their historical pricing. However, some will be raising prices slightly, especially those whose prices have remained the same for years. Some smaller producers have already sold their entire stock. Few will have enough to sell to packers this year in favour of keeping enough on hand for their regular customers."

Beatty's Sugar Bush operator Bill Beatty said the season was one of his shortest in the dozens of years since he started with just 12 taps in the 1960s.

Beatty said it was a down year for everyone, as far as he knows.

His production was down about half of last year's and was close to half a litre per tree, instead of the litre he typically gets.

"It got too hot too fast," he said.

Beatty said he started checking the lines in January and had his first boil on March 22 and then finished with a boil on April 10. There was only eight boils – each boil needs 200 gallons of sap.



Framed by the sap lines, Bill Beatty looks back towards the direction of his wife, Anne (together for 65 years), who was helping with the end-of-season effort by operating the pump to clean his two kilometres of hoses on April 23 in Haliburton. Ontario producers like Beatty said it was a down year for maple syrup production, which was owed to the weather that shortened the season and caused less sap to flow./DARREN LUM Staff

With the exception of 300 gallons of sap one day, the rest of the season was devoid of significant return, which Beatty says is far from the norm.

"[It was] 80 or so gallons a day. That's way down from what we should have got," he said.

With 200 taps on five acres of his Haliburton land, located a short drive from the village, he's down to a third of the taps of what he used to have three years ago, which started with boiling on an open stove when he began in the 1960s.

Married for 65 years to his wife, Anne, 86, he's followed her observations about when to start.

"Anne said, 'Until you get the doughnut around the tree ... you're not going to get sap. That's why we didn't even rush into the tapping. I was late to tapping for that reason. I felt no sense going out if there [is no sap] ... it's strictly weather. That's all you can do,'" he said.

At 88, Beatty is likely the oldest producer in Haliburton County.

He not only acknowledges his wife Anne as the 'boss' and responsible for quality control of the operation, but also sees a value in being actively engaged for his quality of life.

About the only time he didn't produce maple syrup was from a few years ago when he was recovering from a heart attack.

Despite initial advice by a cardiologist to take it easy after he was recovered, he found a cardiologist that loved maple syrup and offered his blessing to continue whatever made him happy and healthy.

Other times of the year when Beatty is not busy with maple syrup, he's working on his property, or maintaining the cottage he rents out in the summer.

At his age things take a little longer, he said. The 200 taps took six days to get ready, instead of the two it took him in his earlier years.

Although farming wasn't his life career, he got an early start with working the land during the Second World War. At eight-years-old, he was enlisted to help his grandfather work the family farm in a small community called Garden Hill, located north of Port Hope. It was only a few years later that he started helping his uncle with his maple syrup production.

With the way the spring went, he wondered about delaying the cleaning of the sap lines and leaving the taps to continue to collect this past week.

"It was a strange, strange year," he said.

Esson Creek Maple's Josh Bramham of Greenmantle Farm in Wilberforce also saw less yield with his production this year from 2,200 taps on 60 acres of land, which he works on with his 74-year-old father, Mark, mother, Sandra and wife, Heather. This year his family's operation saw a little more than one litre per tree compared to last year's 1.7 litres. It is an all-time low in the operation's five-year history.

The factors for lower yield was related to the shorter season brought on by the weather.

"It started a little bit later and we had that one week of warm weather. And it was basically the trees were done," he said, referring to April 7.

Other factors included the warm spells.

"It was that last week around April 7 when things were above freezing all week and, you know, 20 degrees. That was when trees were ready to start to make buds and leaves. You know you're done then," he said.

The family's first day of boiling was March 12 and the last day was April 7, which was close to two weeks shorter than last year.

The loss will affect bulk sales he said.

"We'll hold on to more and try to retail it and not sell as many barrels. We kept some stock from previous years and hope we don't run out. We'll try to retail as much as possible," he said.

Retail, he said, is about sales to the public in person and online to customers in the USA, United Kingdom and Germany, which includes wholesale when they bottle it and sell through local grocery stores in Haliburton, Wilberforce and Harcourt.

Bramham said there is an understanding that this was a poor year related to weather and that there is always next year.

"You can't control the weather ... exactly like any type of farming we're so dependent on the weather, so you kind of just have to ride it out," he said.

Bramham said despite the low yield the

see LOWER page 15



## Talk with the Doc COVID-19 Update

Please join Medical Officer of Health  
**Dr. Natalie Bocking**  
for an update on COVID-19 and vaccine rollout

**May 4 • 1-2 pm**  
**May 18 • 1-2 pm**



For more details visit  
[www.hkpr.on.ca](http://www.hkpr.on.ca)

My clients and I have decided to delay the start date of the listings below until after the current "Lockdown". We do not wish to create a situation that encourages buyers to travel at this time. Please feel free to contact me for more details on any of these listings.

### Little Hawk Lake



### Kennis River



## CENTURY 21

Granite Realty Group Inc.

BROKERAGE



**DAGMAR BOETTCHER**  
BROKER

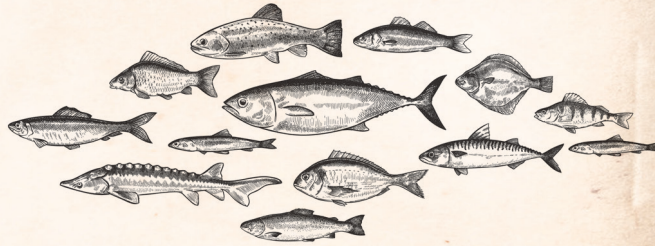
C: 705-457-5968  
E: [dagmar@interhop.net](mailto:dagmar@interhop.net)  
[dagmarboettcher.com](http://dagmarboettcher.com)



This is the lake  
where people live.



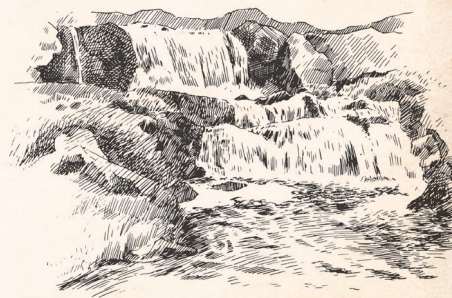
These are the fish  
that swim in the lake  
where people live.



These are the plants  
that shelter the fish  
that swim in the lake  
where people live.



These are the waters  
that feed the lake  
that nourish the plants  
that shelter the fish  
that swim in the lake  
where people live.

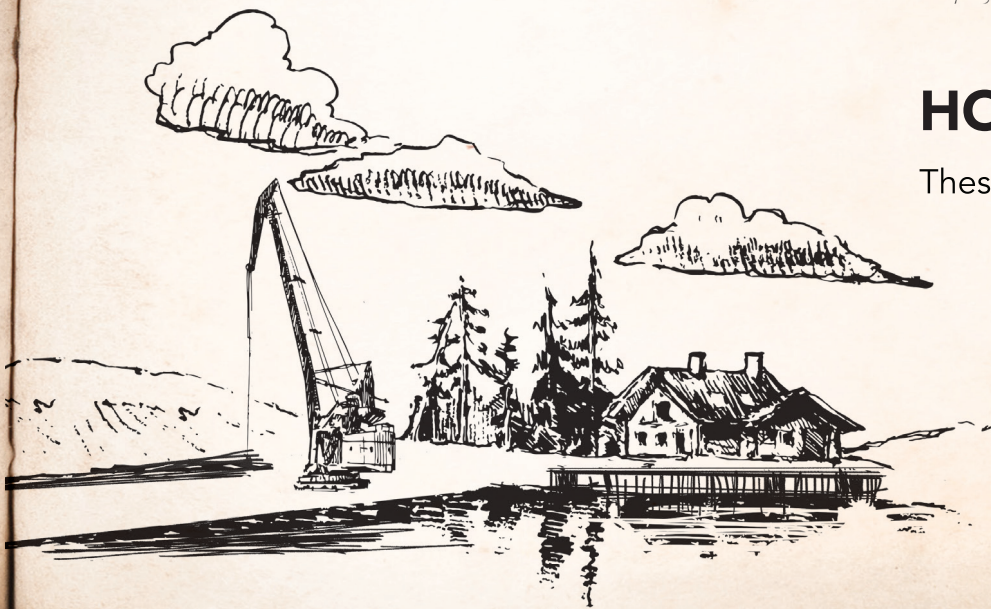


These are the shorelines  
that filter the waters  
that feed the lake  
that nourish the plants  
that shelter the fish  
that swim in the lake  
where people live.



## HOWEVER,

These are the clear-cut shorelines  
and manicured lawns  
that can't filter the water  
that pollute the lake  
that choke the plants  
that kill the fish  
that used to live in the lake  
**where no-one can live.**



When we protect our shorelines, we're also protecting our homes, our children, our pets and our economy. Taking care of our County's beautiful lakes takes all of us. Be sure you know the full facts and discover the difference you can make.

**When we protect our lakes, we protect the priceless memories yet to be made.**

**besshore.ca**



# Haliburton's Cockwell hopes to use new role to promote Ontario's forests

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Having recently taken on a leading role with provincial non-profit Forests Ontario, Haliburton's Malcolm Cockwell is committed to protecting what he believes is Canada's greatest natural resource.

The long-time managing director of the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve has been a leading voice, locally, for many years on issues related to forest management. Now he plans to expand his reach, and provide that same level of engagement and support provincially after recently taking on the role of president with Forests Ontario.

"This is an exciting opportunity for me to step up, do my part and assist with the stewardship of all of Ontario's forests," Cockwell said. "I've been on the board of directors with the organization for the last six years. I'm probably one of the longest serving board members, so the timing felt right to step up. I know the industry, and I know the challenges we're facing."

He added, "I am looking forward to supporting the dedicated, talented staff at Forests Ontario over the coming years."

Forests Ontario is a not-for-profit charity dedicated to re-greening the province through the support of tree planting, forest restoration, stewardship, education and awareness.

Cockwell's priority moving forward will be promoting some of the "amazing" parks and forests across the province, while bolstering the many programs and initiatives Forests Ontario provides.



Haliburton County resident Malcolm Cockwell is the new president and board chair of Forests Ontario. /SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Educating the public about the opportunities available to them is becoming increasingly important, even more so during the pandemic. We've got people who, basically, are stuck inside and are hungry for opportunities to get into green space, and especially forests. Then, being able to educate people about the importance of forests, how they're managed and how they're conserved is always important."

That education traditionally begins in the classroom, Cockwell says. In a normal year, Forests Ontario would run hundreds of presentations and seminars in elementary and high schools all across the

province, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic it's been over a year since they've been able to engage students in-person. That has led to the organization taking many of its recent programs and initiatives, such as the Ontario Envirothon, online.

Ontario Envirothon is an environmentally-themed academic competition that immerses students in hands-on learning and discovery. Through the program, Forests Ontario offers budding environmental leaders a chance to explore education and career paths in the natural sciences and network with potential mentors. For more information on the initiative, and other Forests Ontario programs, visit [forestsontario.ca](https://forestsontario.ca).

While Cockwell has established a fine career for himself in the forestry industry, he admits he was something of a late bloomer. He only realized that it was possible to earn a living working in, and with nature, once he was already studying at university. That's why he feels it's so important to educate the youth of today about the wealth of opportunities available right on their doorstep.

"Canada is a forested country. There's so much in this industry that is so good for so many people, and a lot of us go through school, or approach post-secondary without really knowing what's out there," Cockwell said. "When I started out, I didn't intend on getting into forestry – I wanted to become a journalist, or a lawyer. Then I got to school, learned about the incredibly rewarding careers and pivoted. It would be nice if there was more information out there, and students knew about all the opportunities they have."

Here in town, Cockwell is the managing director of the Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, a for-profit entity that owns and operates around 100,000 acres of land across the county. The company runs a research facility, education centre, wolf centre and three sawmills, employing around 150 people year-round.

"I like to call us a sustainable multi-use private land stewardship company," Cockwell said. "Sustainable meaning that we're doing everything we do in a manner that we can do it for an extremely long time. Our management planning window is often beyond 100 years, which I think is pretty good proof of being sustainable. Multi-use means that we're not just in one business, we're actually involved in dozens of businesses. And then when you look at our land and what we do, I think we define what it is to be multi-use. We're looking at things from a conservation perspective, a growth and timber yield production perspective, looking at the value the sawmills bring, and then considering the recreational perspective too."

"And while most people think we're a provincial park, we're not. Our land is private land. We are a for-profit business, but for-profit in a responsible way. Stewardship is really important to us – to us, that means doing what we do for more than just the money. We are committed to earning our social license and being the best possible landowners for this piece of property – fulfilling our land ethos, which is to make the property better from an ecological perspective," Cockwell concluded.

For more on Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve, visit [haliburtonforest.com](https://haliburtonforest.com).

## ENOUGH WITH THE FROZEN DINNERS.



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HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS  
HEALTH SERVICES



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The Haliburton County RAAM Clinic is located in Minden and offers quick, barrier-free treatment for patients who are addicted to alcohol or opioids, including assessments, counseling, and prescriptions for lessening cravings and withdrawal symptoms. The medical team at the RAAM clinic has experience treating people who are struggling with substance use, and understands the potential barriers for those seeking help. The team will also help clients navigate other supportive services in our community as required.

The clinic is staffed by PRHC physicians and HHHS nurses, who work in partnership with FourCast and PARN-Your Community AIDS Resource Network to ensure clients are supported through the continuum of their care.

#### How to book an Appointment:

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Located in Haliburton Highlands Mental Health Services – strip mall located beside Foodland in Minden

**14 IGA Rd., Suite 201, Heritage Plaza, Minden**

Haliburton County RAAM Clinic occurs on Tuesday & Thursday for booked appointments



# Sullivan signs off as CEO of county library

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

After a dozen years at the helm of the Haliburton County Public Library, CEO Bessie Sullivan has tendered her resignation, which will take effect at the end of May.

"Twelve years at the Haliburton County Public Library has been rewarding," Sullivan said in a prepared statement. "I believe that an organization can only thrive with a leader for so long and then it is time for a change. Due to COVID-19 and some health issues, I have been prompted to make that change. I have loved working with the wonderful staff at the library. People who are deeply committed to their communities by providing safe spaces where library users could further their quest for knowledge through learning technology and information seeking. Past members of the library board have worked hard to understand the legislation, their role in governance, and the challenges facing public libraries today. Some I have had the pleasure of working with for many years and the growth of the library is a culmination of their work, an engaged staff, and an interested public. Although I am sad to be leaving, I am looking forward to some new challenges."

ward to some new challenges."

Sullivan was instrumental in modernizing the county's library system, introducing a swath of technological and digital improvements.

"Modern librarianship is a field of rapid change, where issues of democracy, the public good, diversity, and intellectual freedom challenge and stretch our knowledge and worldview," Erin Kernohan-Berning, branch services librarian, told the *Echo*. "Lifelong learning is mandatory in the profession, and having mentors to foster that learning is important. I am grateful to have had Bessie as a mentor as we've grappled with some of these larger issues in our small corner of the world."

In a press release, Sally Howson, chair of the library board, said the board was accepting Sullivan's resignation with regret.

"Bessie has transitioned Haliburton County's library services into an enviable and well-respected system that serves many people in a range of needs and interests," the release reads. "Under her leadership HCPL won several awards, some of these include: the Angus Mowat Award of Excellence (2012) for the Celebrity Readers Program; the Ontario Public Library Association Leadership in Adult Readers Advisory Award (2015); and the Ontario Public Library Association New Library

“

*I believe that an organization can only thrive with a leader for so long and then it is time for a change.*

— Bessie Sullivan

Building Award (2016) for the Wilberforce branch of the HCPL.

"The board and staff wish Bessie all the best in her future endeavours and thank her for her dedication and commitment to the community and its library services."

Anna Babluck is currently the acting library CEO, as Sullivan has been on a leave.

## 'We just like making music' says Haliburton's Bones of Jim Jones

from page 3

making the album.

Espina said how the album came to be was somewhat serendipitous.

"We had extra time and our drummer, Braeden was supposed to go to school, but [he] didn't end up going to school and we're like, 'Let's do this.' " he said.

Half the songs were written two years before and the balance of the song list was completed in the summer. There's something powerful that comes with being able to channel all the pain and emotion into a tangible thing, Lynch said.

"It's a physical copy of your emotions," he said. "As I said, raw energy. And then other people are affected by it. I have had lots of people hit me up on the band's account on Instagram, saying like, your music has helped me out through this rough time in life, and it's really what I needed to hear right now. Thank you so much. Just being able to hear that and how it's affected other people ... it's truly magical."

None of this would have happened had Sharp not started playing drums in Grade 7.

He remembers how a teacher that year gifted him a drum kit, which was destined for the landfill.

"Me and Lane started to get together and hanging out at my house and playing music," he said. "It just kind of never stopped."

As the percussionist, he acknowledges the benefit of being able to hit things for therapy.

"Something that takes a lot of focus and a lot of energy. It's a good thing to [use] to get away from everything else that would take up that energy," he said.

Lynch's message to listeners is to be true to yourself.

"If you're different and you don't fit in that box

at school, be yourself and stick strong to it," he said. "Always stay true to yourself and don't conform because I feel like a lot of people, who like guitar, or like art, but they don't see it as something they can pursue it as a career and make money off it. They think they need to go to school and get a doctorate. I think if you have that strong talent and that passion – passion is the most [important] and talent will come with practice. If you have that passion and keep going on it and don't stop, and don't let people tear you down for being different, stop you and make you question [yourself]," he said. "Kids beat me up in school, man, just for being different and stuff like that."

The near future will include a move to Montreal where there is a strong arts atmosphere and will be convenient for travel for everyone, with Braeden studying music engineering in Ottawa this coming year.


The band has been busy working on their next album Mad Dogs and Bed Bugs, which will be more of a "DIY" effort than the first album, which required an investment of several thousands of dollars. The band will do all the work and welcome the opportunity to grow musically and use what they learned from the first experience.

The album needs to be done before Braeden goes to school in September, Lynch said. Possibly in August and with a launch on Spotify, iTunes, which could include a vinyl release if sales warrant.

After that it's all about getting out into the world and showing what they can do.

"We're just eager to play live shows," Lynch said. "We want to get out there and play clubs and venues and really to just get out there and experience it all. Like I said, it's all been put on the backburner. Just keep working on music. Keep just grinding. Success would be cool and it would be amazing, but this just feels right for us.

It has nothing to do ... we're not making music to be one day, hopefully, be rock stars. It just comes out of us. We just like making music. If we're able to release it, and people enjoy it, then that's a bonus."




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# Mass vaccination clinics temporarily close due to low supply

SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference held virtually on April 21 with medical officer of health Dr. Natalie Bocking.

In the upcoming weeks, there will be fewer mass vaccination clinics in the HKPR area due to challenges with vaccine supply, and prioritization of mobile teams in reaching congregate care settings that the health unit has not yet been able to reach – and sometimes clinics will be prioritized over mobile teams while the health unit deals with a low supply of vaccine.

"We're still in an era of vaccine shortage," said Bocking. "And a lot of the challenges or struggles or frustrations that people are experiencing related to access to COVID-19 vaccines are rooted just in the fact that Ontario is not receiving enough supply, Canada is not receiving enough supply and so in HKPR we're not receiving the supply that we'd like to see to meet the demand."

"Of the vaccine supply we do have, we need to be able to reach some of the priority populations that were identified throughout the provincial framework guiding the vaccination roll-out," she said.

The Lindsay Exhibition (LEX) clinic will still be open this week, as well as follow-up clinics in retirement homes, group home settings, congregate care settings and community-based clinics for the highest risk population.

"Over the next couple of weeks, there will be fewer appointments in those mass immunization clinics because we have less supply overall," said Bocking, who noted that shipments of increased supply of vaccines are expected to arrive in May. "I'm quite hopeful that that will enable us to really operate all of the mass immunization clinics at their full capacity which they haven't been to this point, because there hasn't been the vaccine supply."

Bocking thanked volunteers for their work in helping to make clinics possible.

## 51,000 HKPR residents have received at least one shot of vaccine

Of the April 19 vaccination number update, 41,156 doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been administered across HKPR jurisdiction, and 51,000 residents of the HKPR region have received a vaccine – the number being higher as some people who live in the area received a vaccine outside of the jurisdiction – equating to about 27 per cent of the health unit's population having received at least one dose, consistent with the provincial proportion according to Bocking.

"So I think we are on the right track," she said.

Within Haliburton County, vaccination clinics have been taking place at the S.G. Nesbitt arena in Minden and A.J. LaRue arena in Haliburton since earlier this month using the province's three-phased vaccination priority plan and phone or online appointment booking system. Currently appointments are available for those born in 1961 or earlier, or to those eligible for vaccination for reasons other than age. Visit <http://www.ontario.ca/bookvaccine> or phone 1-888-999-6488 to book an appointment.

Recently vaccinations have been made available in three pharmacies in Haliburton – Rexall, Shopper's Drug Mart and DRUGStore Pharmacy in Todd's Independent – some by appointment and some by walk-in. Visit <https://www.hkpr.on.ca/2021/03/26/vaccination-clinics/> for more information.

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre, which helped vaccinate community elders prior to the mass vaccination clinics opening, is also offering AstraZeneca immunization clinics for people born in 1981 or earlier on April 23, 29 and 30 with additional dates to be announced. Patients of the Haliburton Family Medical Centre are asked to call 705-457-1212 to book an appointment.

Vaccination of people who are homebound, a collaboration with the Local Health Integration Network and paramedic services, is expected to start soon.

## Region would be in red zone if not for lockdown

Bocking said last week that 291 new cases had been confirmed in the last 14 days, noting it's "a fairly significant increase from what we had been seeing more recently in the pandemic." The region's test positivity rate has also increased and has hovered just over three per cent, as have test positivity rates across the province, some regions with an average of higher than 10 per cent. On average the health unit is seeing about 20 new confirmed cases a day.

“

*Of the vaccine supply we do have, we need to be able to reach some of the priority populations that were identified throughout the provincial framework guiding the vaccination roll-out.*

— Dr. Natalie Bocking  
medical officer of health, HKPRDHU

"I think it's too soon to say that this is going to be the new standard," said Bocking. "There's still the possibility that the numbers will go up further or hopefully as the public health measures that are currently in place are kicking in we will see those numbers decrease."

The crude rate of infection over the past seven days is one of the indicators that determines which colour zone a region falls into under the provincial government's COVID-19 response framework, which is currently paused as the province is on lockdown.

"Over the last [week], our crude rate per 100,000 people has ranged between 65 and 88 or 89 per 100,000," said Bocking. "If we weren't in a provincial shutdown, that would put us in the red zone."

Prior to the most recent declaration of emergency and province-wide stay-at-home order, which began April 8 with public health measures further enhanced beginning April 17, the HKPR region was declared a 'yellow' zone.

"Between then and now, that increase in cases would have put us into the red zone," said Bocking.

Thirty per cent of the most recent cases discussed in the press conference have been confirmed in people under the age of 20, compared to the earlier days of the pandemic when the majority of cases were confirmed among the older population, which Bocking said might be because more of the high-risk and older population has been able to be vaccinated, or also that the variants of concern have been reported to cause infections in the younger population – not necessarily children, she said.

The majority of cases being traced are reported to have spread through community transmission – not necessarily through a specific workplace or setting – including quite a few that couldn't be connected to a particular case, which reflects further community transmission.

see HALIBURTON page 14

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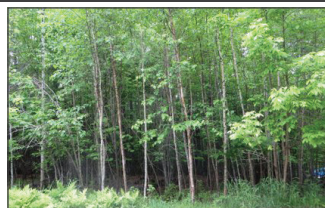
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457-5968

### Dark Lake \$699,000

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- Good swimming, boat into Beech Lake



Lindsay Elder\*\*  
457-5878



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Andrew Hodgson\*\*  
286-2138 x 229

### Minden Home \$299,000

- Affordable home, full of potential
- Ideal as a starter home or for a family
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, 1 car garage
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### Mink Rd.

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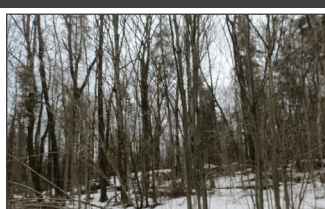
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286-2138 x 227

### Minden Home \$199,000

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- New Fap furnace. roof resingled 3 yrs ago.
- Easy access needs some TLC.



### Minnicock Lake Rd \$159,000

- 10 acres, nicely treed on yr round road.
- only 10 minutes from Haliburton



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455-2054



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NEW LISTING



Karen Nimigon\*\*  
457-6505

### South Lake \$699,000

- 4 bdrm, furnished, yr round
- Cabana, Bunkie, deck lakeside
- 152 ft sandy shoreline, 1.22 acres



SOLD



Kelly Kay\*  
705-457-8841  
Kirsten Rae\*  
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### Stanhope Airport Rd \$349,000

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- Central location, close to lake access



NEW LISTING



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# Highlands East staff praise Covert for quality of work and commitment

from page 4

"There were no radios, no phones, so if you got stuck, hey, it was ankle express

from then on," said Covert. "You had to walk until you met a neighbour or whoever and get back to the yard. If you got plowing or sanding and you got stuck, we

had to walk to get help."

Though he spent plenty of time in his own company out on the road, Covert said that what he will miss most about the job is his opportunity to mingle with the people of the area.

"That's the biggest one right there, the everyday interaction with the public, there's good people," he said. "I'm not going to say there weren't irate people, but for the most part, there were nice people."

Covert said he retired because, "everything's computers and electronics, I'm too old for learning all that stuff," and because "you're only going to live so long." Kim Covert, Earl's wife, retired from Scotiabank in December, and now they plan to ease into retirement together spending time at their trailer in Madawaska.

David Armstrong, public works manager for Highlands East, said Earl's years of service and dedication to the municipality show in the public works staff.

"The staff in public works are thorough, thoughtful and carry themselves with an exceptional professionalism," he said. "The traits I see in this staff are a testament to Earl's commitment to the pros-

perity and sustainability of the infrastructure in the Municipality of Highlands East."

Shannon Hunter, Highlands East CAO, acknowledged Covert had devoted his entire career to the Township of Cardiff and through amalgamation of the Municipality of Highlands East. He received a distinguished service award in March last year in appreciation and gratitude for his dedication as an employee.

"Whether through day-to-day operations or weekend tours of the roads, Earl knows every inch of the municipality and the history," Hunter told the *Echo*. "Earl took pride in his work and the level of service provided on the municipal roads. Although his retirement is well deserved, he will be dearly missed."

Covert said he appreciated that Tom Elliott gave him the chance to get to this point in his life.

"I always liked that job," said Covert. "What I always liked is you could always see an improvement you'd done when you'd done work. You could always see the improvement, and I liked it outside. If I didn't like it, I wouldn't have been there. That's one way of looking at it, eh?"

*Crossword brought to you by*

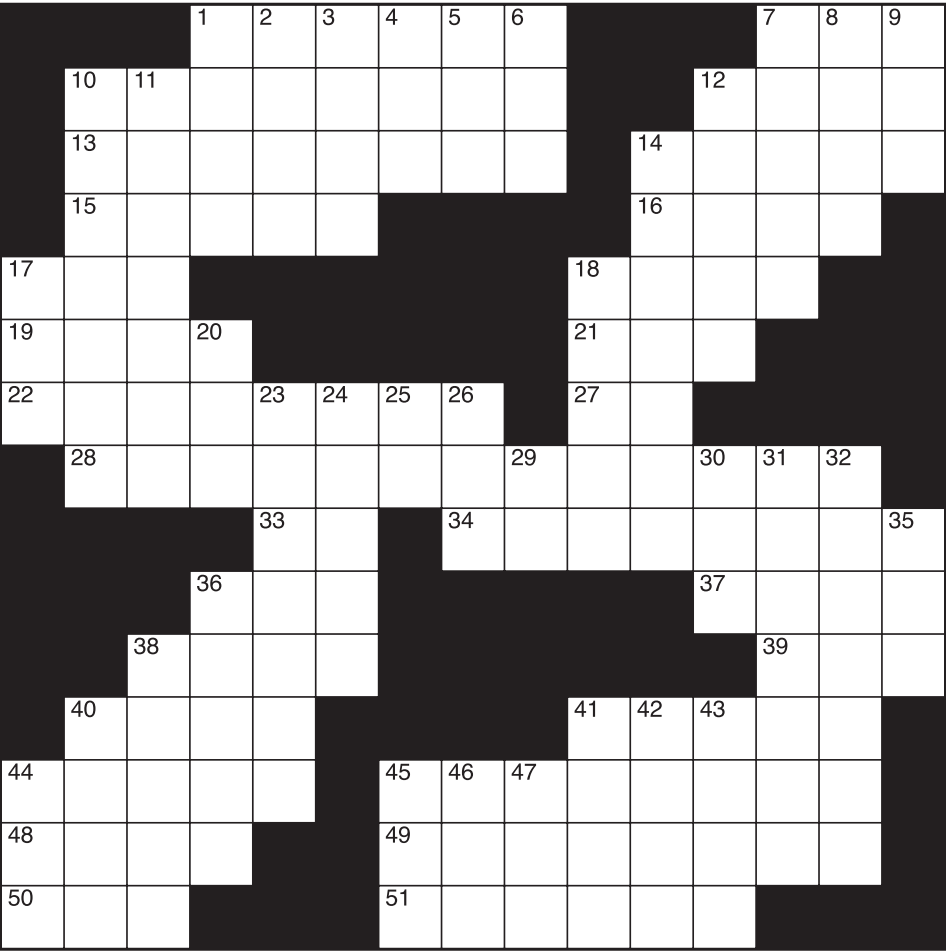
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Switches
- 7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
- 10. Sweeties
- 12. Competition
- 13. Measures electrical resistance
- 14. Psychotherapy researcher
- 15. Causes injury to
- 16. Open
- 17. Polish peninsula
- 18. Hebrew calendar month
- 19. Whale ship captain
- 21. Children's accessory
- 22. Unknown point
- 27. Exists
- 28. Extremely confident
- 33. Expression of disgust
- 34. The government has many
- 36. Small constellation
- 37. Northern Indian city
- 38. The best pitchers
- 39. Naturally occurring solid
- 40. Apple computers
- 41. Portuguese city
- 44. Ancient Greek war dance
- 45. More reliable
- 48. Sailboat
- 49. Newspapers
- 50. Frequently flooded area
- 51. They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Partial
- 2. "Mad Men" leading man
- 3. The \_\_\_ of March

4. Healthy

- 5. Where golfers begin
- 6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
- 7. Of the cheek
- 8. Injury reminder
- 9. Statesman Franklin
- 10. For an unknown reason
- 11. Brain parts
- 12. Islamic calendar month
- 14. Avenue where ad men work
- 17. Possesses
- 18. Accept
- 20. Stake
- 23. Former British PM May
- 24. US battleships circa 1939
- 25. Greek alphabet letter
- 26. When you hope to get there
- 29. Top lawyer
- 30. Fiddler crabs
- 31. Intolerant
- 32. Persons that cause extreme fear
- 35. Car mechanics group
- 36. Capital of Ghana
- 38. Famed ballplayer Hank
- 40. Emphasizes insignificance
- 41. Light-colored
- 42. Distinctive smell
- 43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
- 44. Sunscreen rating
- 45. Short-term memory
- 46. Japanese delicacy
- 47. One point north of due east

Answers on page 16

## Haliburton County variant of concern count at 17

from page 12

### Variants of concern

Of the cases the health unit has been notified of in the past two weeks, approximately 13 to 14 per cent of those have been identified as variants of concern, while in the province that number has plateaued at 69 per cent.

"We are not seeing in our region the same proportion of variants of concern, but we are seeing it," said Bocking, adding there is a delay in reporting if a sample has the mutation consistent with a variant of concern so numbers will continue to change.

At press time, 17 cases have been identified in Haliburton County as variants of

concern; a total of 339 in the region – at the beginning of March, 14 had been identified in the entire HKPR region.

Variants of concern are more transmissible than the original virus, and can amplify cases because of the ease in which they spread. Positive cases of COVID-19 are initially screened in the laboratory process to determine if they are variants of concern, but a full genome sequence is required to determine which variant is identified, which takes about one to two weeks and is not done on every sample due to capacity issues at the lab, according to Bocking.

To date, the majority of variants identified in the health unit's region have been the one first identified in the United Kingdom.

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CountyLife



# Zygoptera aiming to be 'environmental voice' for Haliburton County

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

While their company name may translate directly as damselfly, the trio of women who have recently come together to form Zygoptera Consulting are anything but your stereotypical damsels in distress.

Launching a new business during a global pandemic is a bold move, but for Katie Paroschy, Carmen Pereira and Sarah Sinclair it seemed the opportune time to turn their collective dream into a reality.

After meeting at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre several years ago, and quickly becoming friends, the three women harboured hopes of one day going into business for themselves – combining their individual specialties in biology and ecology to create something they could call their own.

"We would have these little talks, and these conversations while we were working and doing our various jobs. While working in Dorset, we kind of came together in the biology labs doing benthic assessments – basically studies of insects that live on the bottom of lakes. That's how we came up with the name Zygoptera – it's the scientific name for a damselfly, which is a popular benthic insect," Paroschy said.

She added, "Since our time in Dorset, we've gone on different paths but we've all found ourselves either underemployed, or unemployed for various



From left, Katie Paroschy, Sarah Sinclair and Carmen Pereira have come together to form the environmental consulting firm Zygoptera Consulting, after spending years working together at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre. / SUBMITTED

reasons due to the pandemic and government cutbacks, so instead of drifting further from what we love to do, which is protecting the environment, helping our communities and working with great people, we thought we'd try our hand at business and incorporate all of our skills under one umbrella."

Those skills are far-reaching. Serving the Haliburton, Parry Sound, Muskoka and Simcoe County regions, Zygoptera Consulting offers a variety of services "to help people and organizations get their projects done," as Paroschy states.

The trio are capable of carrying out extensive environmental assessments, lake studies, wildlife surveys, taxonomic identification, shoreline and property naturalization, auditing, project analysis and

peer review for anything in the environmental field. Paroschy says the company can also help individuals with residential and small commercial development land permit assessments.

"I come from a planning background, so if anyone wants to put an addition on a house, or build a deck and they don't want to go through the paperwork themselves, we can do that for them," Paroschy said. "We also do aquatic and insect research, limnology – which is the study of fishes in lakes."

Pereira is currently completing her PhD on the study of algae, while Sinclair is one of the leading biologists in Ontario when it comes to benthic assessments. Benthic assessments, Pereira says, can give a really good reading on water quality in a

lake.

"It's probably one of the best and most inexpensive ways of assessing water quality," Pereira said.

Given the controversy surrounding the County of Haliburton's review of its shoreline preservation bylaw, Paroschy says that's one of the areas Zygoptera will be focusing on assisting with and providing more information on over the coming months.

"There are lots of construction companies and landscape companies that are worried about permitting, and I'm sure many are thinking 'oh my gosh, there's now going to be another layer to this', so we're hoping to offer our services to assist with, or complete that work for them," Paroschy said.

While the team are excited to finally get their new venture off the ground, they expect it will be something of a slow burner as they seek to establish themselves in the community.

There's clear excitement in their voices as the three women take turns speaking about the business and their goals for the future.

"We really want to be involved in our community, and really help better the environment in our community in any way that we can. That's one of our core goals," Paroschy said. "We would really like to be community voices in any way that we can, and educate people about the importance of our local environment in Haliburton and Muskoka."

For more information, visit [www.zygoptera.ca](http://www.zygoptera.ca).

## Lower yields didn't lower efforts to make the best of a challenging year

from page 8

quality of the syrup was good.

"Even at the end. Sometimes near the end you get an off taste in your syrup and that's when you stop. And if we do make something like that we'll sell it as a cooking grade. We didn't make any of that. It was all good syrup. We made some nice dark syrup and very dark at the end of the year and it's delicious," he said.

Bramham said the goal for the past five years has been to continue to grow the operation and this low return isn't stopping that. There was 300 taps added this year. He hopes to do the same next year.

They started five years ago with 585 taps.

Before the provincial lockdown, Bramham said they hosted several tours of peo-

ple.

"It was our busiest year for tours and for, I would say, overall visits to the sugar shack. There was a lot of interest and people. It was before the lockdown and people wanted to get out and do things and experience the maple season," he said.

He adds sales were the best ever during the maple producing season, which was a reversal of last year when tours weren't permitted due to the provincial lockdown. He said it was close to 20 per cent higher than the previous year.

Although he said they won't be selling at the Farmer's Market this year, he believes there is value at just being at the Farmer's Market.

"It's not just about the sales that you make there. It promotes you and you make lots of repeat customers so nothing

but positive experiences with the Farmers' Market," he said.

Last year, the Bramhams didn't become a vendor for concern for his family and his elderly parents potentially contracting COVID-19. He plans to return as a vendor in 2022.

Winterdance Dogsled Tours has been making maple syrup since 2017.

The family operation is led by well-known Haliburton musher Hank DeBruin and wife, Tanya McCready, who is defacto spokesperson and everything else that is required for the business.

She concurred with other producers about the weather factored into lower-than-usual yields, with close to 65 per cent of what they produced last year, which is down from the high of 0.9 a litre per tree last year.

She's heard from other maple syrup producers they were down as much as 20 per cent so relatively speaking Winterdance is "feeling very grateful."

The operation started boiling on March 20 and finished April 7.

"Normally, we're still making syrup," she said, referencing to last week. "Every year of the five years we're making syrup the last week of April."

They started with close to 400 taps in the first year and now are at 2,000 taps.

McCready said last year sales included at their trail head where they launch their dogsled tours from. They've also sold their products at the Eagle Lake Country Market and at the Kingston Farmers' Market.

This year Winterdance will not be joining vendors at the Haliburton County Farmers' Market.

During the autumn, they turned to selling their maple syrup online for the first time and found it very successful. It was prompted by the uncertainty of the farmers' market.

The shortfall means they will set aside

the expected amount for retailers and for their subscription-based online customers and they will not be able to sell at their trail head this coming year.

Their top three destinations for online sales is the U.S., the United Kingdom and Italy. Online sales account for close to 50 per cent of all their sales. McCready said for Farmers' Market customers they will drop off [if close by] or arrange curbside pickup orders.

Like everyone, the tour operator and maple syrup has seen it's share of revenue losses, reaching in the thousands. The attitude though is important and it's all about moving forward.

"This year has just been economic impact after economic impact. We'll just add it to everything else," she said.

However, for all the challenges, she said there is optimism for better times ahead.

The plan is to add another 500 taps for next year. This poor situation is what she is characterizing as a "blip."

"Dogsledding season was basically two-thirds lost compared to a normal winter with the shutdown. It's been a beat up kind of year financially, but, you know, you look around the world, even Ontario is so depressing right now, and the rest of the world is pulling out of this. So the way we look at it is we'll survive this for sure until next winter," she said.

She is thankful for the financial support by the Haliburton County Development Corporation for enabling their expansion efforts.

She adds they've added summer backcountry tours for this coming season and it came from necessity, which will prove to a positive from a negative situation.

"A year from now when we get out of this we'll just be so much stronger and have so much diversity to our business it'll be a good thin in the long run," she said.

## Spring this year is about patience

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper  
754-2278

The first note is one of sympathy. Ernie Cooper died in his home earlier this month. Our deepest sympathy goes to his parents, Joan and Basle, and to his wife of fifteen years, Julie. Arrangements for funeral and burial will be made available when spring makes it possible.

Spring seems to have begun, then gone again, but April 8 was when the ice went

out of Grass Lake. Golf courses have been opened, then closed due to government lockdown for four weeks. In the meantime, the owners have been maintaining grasses and greens in preparation for golfing when it is permitted.

Everything in nature is waiting, waiting till earth seeds, bulbs, roots take their final rest before blooms and blossoms are blessed with enough sun to grow.

People are being patient as we wait for enough COVID-19 vaccines for all which is when we hope we can again actually get to at least gather outside together on lawns or decks at proper distances. It's been so long since real visits could take place.

Laurel Duncan is now a resident of Minden's Hyland Crest.



# Saving Grace and researching roads to help area turtles

SUE TIFFIN  
Staff Reporter

The first time Leora Berman was called to rescue Grace, one of Haliburton County’s oldest snapping turtles, was last year toward the end of the summer. Grace was crossing the street in front of the high school, and in doing so was also holding up a line of school buses.

It took two people at that time to lift Grace, who is estimated to weigh more than 25 pounds. Using a makeshift sling, they carried the ancient turtle to Head Lake, in case she might be ready to hibernate.

A week later, Berman, who founded The Land Between conservation organization and the Turtle Guardians program, met Grace again.

“Someone called us a week later, in the evening, to say they had spotted Grace,” said Berman. “I went out that night because she’s such a precious one, because of her age.”

According to research on the aging of turtles, it is likely based on Grace’s size of 39 centimetres that she is more than 125 years old, possibly anywhere up to 200 years old.

Using a “pizza hold method,” in which the turtle is approached from behind, and anchored and stabilized with one hand at the base of the tail while the other hand is held flat under the belly, Berman laid Grace in a wheelbarrow to help move the heavy elder safely. It’s important to never pick up a turtle by the tail which could risk damage to its spine, and also to be mindful of a snapping turtle’s defence in response to fear.

“A snapping turtle in the wild will snap when they’re feeling threatened on land,” said Berman. “They rarely ever snap in the water unless they’ve been fed by someone fishing in the same spot all the time. They don’t snap, usually, out of defence in water - it would be in mistaking something for food. On land they tend to be pretty afraid, and a big turtle who is projecting a snap at that rate is pretty hard to maneuver.”

Grace, after her wheelbarrow transfer, walked right



Leora Berman (pictured) recently worked with Monika Melichar at Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary to help repair a devastating injury to a Blanding’s turtle. Berman is reminding the public, through the Turtle Guardians program, to be mindful of the essential animals as they cross roads throughout the county. /Photo courtesy of Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

near the high school, and her feeding grounds include Head Lake and Kashagawigamog Lake.

“Turtles know exactly where they’re going, and they recognize their entire territories,” said Berman. “Their navigation systems are just incredible and extremely mysterious. They could use the sun to navigate, plus the earth’s magnetism because of magnetites in their brains and/or different chemicals in their eyes that allows them to see earth’s magnetism, or they could be using all three of these tools, but they know exactly where they are.”

Grace has been spotted on Highway 118, on Gelert Road, near the hospital, on Highland Street and on Highway 121, causing the Turtle Guardians program to act quickly in alerting the public to her whereabouts through their social media page, in an attempt to alert drivers of her path – and the paths of other turtles as they cross roads throughout the county, and prevent continued road mortality of the animals. Turtles make use of dedicated territories they have memorized as hatchlings, imprinting hibernation sites, seeding sites and mating areas, crossing roads in the same areas and often returning to the same hibernation site within one metre of the year before.

“Grace is named for the absolute miracle of her longevity and existence without significant injury or death in this busy area of roads and boats,” reads the Turtle Guardians web site. “We have posted alerts to community members-at-large to watch for Grace on roads and notify us of any sightings. Grace needs to stay in her territory to survive and thrive and she needs our help. But Grace is like many other turtles - ancient, resilient and at the same time very vulnerable.”

This spring, Berman said turtles have been reported on roads three weeks earlier than usual. The social media post about Grace and turtles crossing has reached 67,000 people.

“I mean, it’s pretty neat to see people rally behind this, because that’s exactly what we need in order to save this species.”

It is possible to experience local extinctions of turtles, said Berman, who noted that the pandemic did not slow the rate of turtle deaths on Haliburton County’s roads - “we’re just losing way too many.”

“Turtles, because they’re slow-moving, they’re slow to do everything, they’re slow to reproduce, they’re slow to replace themselves in nature, and yet, they’re essential

## CROSSWORD ANSWERS

			S	H	E	N	I	M			N	E	F
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into the wetland.

“It was pretty clear when we reached one part of the wetland that that’s exactly where she wanted to be because she just started to walk into the wetland and looked very comfortable,” said Berman.

Grace is making good use of an area busy with humans and car traffic. Her hibernation site is likely the wetlands

## Community Events

**Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library**  
Our first virtual Friends Cafe featuring local author Marie Gage  
When: Wednesday, Apr. 28, at 1 p.m.  
Where: Register today at <http://bit.ly/Friends-Café-with-Marie-Gage>  
Format: There will be a 20 to 30 minute author presentation followed by a short Q & A. This is a free event but donations, in support of our library system, will be gratefully accepted during the program.  
If you have any event questions, please contact Rozanne Hynard at 705-286-1071

For registration assistance, please contact Jennifer Hughey at 705-854-1205

**Environment Haliburton! Enviro-Cafe**  
When: Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Where: via Zoom: please go to [www.environmenthaliburton.org](http://www.environmenthaliburton.org) to register  
What: Presentation: “My Shoreline, Our Lake” which will talk about how the health of our lakes is multifaceted.  
Cost: By donation  
Info: Susan Hay, 705-457-9239

see TURTLE page 17

# Canoe FM Radio

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Grace the turtle, seen here with volunteer James Dunsmore, has been spotted in an area that includes Kashagawigamog Lake, Head Lake, Highways 118 and 121 and Gelert Road. She's likely more than 125 years old and plays a vital role in maintaining the local ecosystem. /Photo from Turtle Guardians Facebook page



# Turtle Guardians collaborate to protect shelled friends

from page 16

for our health and well-being," said Berman. "Without turtles in the environment, we rely on nature. People have forgotten that without intact ecosystems we have very little hope of survival on this planet ... Turtles, exactly as the Indigenous teachings go, a turtle holds most of the animals and earth on its back. Because a turtle is responsible for supporting about 70 per cent of Ontario's fish and wildlife."

Young turtles scour lakes for protein, and help keep lakes free of pathogens by eating dead animals. As they age, they need less protein and more minerals, which they get through seed matter and vegetation – they're beneficial in cycling nutrients, and spread seeds as they defecate in the territory they walk through, helping to grow new fish nurseries and moose habitats, ensuring the health of wetlands that Ontario's wildlife use.

Elder females of the turtle population are most important, as the older a turtle is, the more fecund it is – the more eggs she lays. Without these "mother turtles," Berman said there would be little hope of replacing lost populations, with the loss of what she said is 50 per cent of the turtle population in Ontario already.

"Turtles are not at all like rodents," said Berman. "They're very slow to reproduce. They take up to an average of 60 years to replace themselves in nature, so they're pretty precious creatures."

Though some people deliberately kill turtles, said Berman, most people understand that turtles are valuable. The program she launched – Turtle Guardians – forms a collaboration between at least 10 other organizations, enabling research over a stretch of land for a long time, and supporting groups in sharing data and information and capacity.

"Turtles are also one of the most imperilled species in the world, and knowing that it takes so long to recruit them

and there were so many threats, increasing threats, especially up here with the increasing road traffic, the decreasing natural vegetation around shores, I knew the threats to turtles were mounting and so I kind of figured for turtles to be saved, we needed one human for every turtle to help. We needed every person to be a turtle hero."

Volunteer programs through Turtle Guardians include Nest Sitters, Wetland Watchers, Tunnel Assessors and Road Researchers and offer a variety of ways for people to get involved depending on where they live, and what their interests and available time are. A new volunteer program, Turtle Crossing Guards, is deemed an essential service by provincial government regulations, and able to run during the pandemic, with safety precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in place. Alternatively, for those who can donate financial support rather than time, a GoFundMe has been set up to help pay for high-visibility vests, signage that alerts drivers to known turtle crossing paths which has been arranged in partnership with the Haliburton County roads department, silt fencing, and magnets for cars of those doing research from the road, to help other drivers know they are slow-moving. At press time, \$2,400 of a \$4,000 goal had been raised.

To help donate to the Turtle Guardians program, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/turtle-guardians-saving-grace-safe-crossing>. To volunteer, get involved or for more information on Turtle Guardians, visit <http://www.turtleguardians.com>.

If you spot an injured turtle, record its exact location, place it in a dry, warm ventilated container and call your nearest rehabilitation centre. In Haliburton County, call Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary at 705-286-1173, or for severe injury in any area call the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre at 705-741-5000.



## Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,  
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0  
Telephone: (705) 457-1740  
Email: [info@dysartetal.ca](mailto:info@dysartetal.ca)  
Website: [www.dysartetal.ca](http://www.dysartetal.ca)

### NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE:** Wednesday, May 12th 2021
- **TIME:** 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION:** The Committee of Adjustment will be held as an electronic meeting only.  
The meeting will be recorded through the conferencing application and live streamed to YouTube.

#### APPLICATIONS:

##### 1. D13-MV-2020-013- DeVries

- The following variances are requested to legalize the location of an existing deck, convert the second storey of an accessory building to a private cabin and to permit the construction of an addition onto one of the dwellings located on a property in the WR4L zone:
  - a) A variance to Section 3.1(d)(iii) to permit the gross floor area of a private cabin to be 80.5 square metres (864 square feet), which exceeds the permitted gross floor area of 45 square metres (484 square feet);
  - b) A variance to Section 3.1(e)(ii) to permit the gross floor area of a second storey of an accessory building to be 80.5 square metres (864 square feet), which exceeds the permitted gross floor area of 45 square metres (484 square feet);
  - c) A decrease in provisions of Section 5.2 to permit a dwelling to have a minimum water setback of 7.9 metres (26 feet) as opposed to the legal non-complying water setback of 10 metres (33 feet).
  - d) A variance to Section 3.7(a) to permit a deck attached to a main building to extend 3.7 metres (12 feet), as opposed to the permitted 3 metres (9.84 feet);
  - e) A variance to Section 3.19(a)(v) to permit an increase to the area of encroachment of an attached deck within 10 metres of the high water mark of 12.6 square metre (135 square feet) as opposed to the required 0 metres (0 feet).
  - f) A variance to Section 3.19(a)(v) to permit an increase to the area of encroachment of a main dwelling within 10 metres of the high water mark of 3.3 square metres (35 square feet) as opposed to the required 0 metres (0 feet).
  - g) A variance to Section 3.19(a)(x) to permit an increase to the gross floor area of a dwelling, where there are two dwellings on the lot, and only one is permitted, of 336 square feet (31.2 square metres) as opposed to the required 0 metres (0 feet).

- Location: Part Lots 3 & 4, Concession 1 in the geographic Township of Harcourt, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (1121 Rest-A-While Drive).

##### 2. D13-2021-010- Lengyel

- The following variances are requested to permit construction of a two storey private cabin located on a lot in the WR5L-2 zone.
  - a) A variance to Section 3.1(d)(iii) to permit the gross floor area of a private cabin to be 66.5 square metres (712.5 square feet), which exceeds the permitted gross floor area of 45 square metres (484 square feet); and
  - b) A variance to Section 3.1(d)(ii) to permit a private cabin to be a detached two storey building, as opposed to the permitted detached one storey building.
- Location: Plan 19M4, Lot 3 in the geographic Township of Guilford, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (1045 Downrigger Crt).

Council passed By-law 2020-69 to amends the Committee of Adjustment of the Municipality of Dysart et al's Procedural By-law to permit electronic participation in meetings. **There will not be an in-person meeting; this meeting will be conducted in an electronic format only.**

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Deputy Secretary-Treasurer at [dhicks@dysartetal.ca](mailto:dhicks@dysartetal.ca).

**ANY PERSON** is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions. **A copy of the decision will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles  
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment



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The Haliburton Family Medical Centre and Minden Medical Centre are seeking a **temporary part-time Registered Practical Nurse**. The term of the contract will be six (6) months. The successful candidate must have excellent organizational skills and be able to work in a fast paced environment. Active membership with RPNAO is mandatory. Previous experience working in a primary care medical clinic will be considered an asset.

The Haliburton Family Medical Centre and Minden Medical Centre are seeking a **temporary full-time Team Support (receptionist)**. The term of the contract will be six (6) months. The successful candidate must have excellent organizational skills and be able to work in a fast paced environment. Previous experience in the Health or Business Administration field will be considered an asset.

Please forward a cover letter and resume to the address below, or email **kim.robinson@hhfht.com**

Haliburton Family Medical Centre  
7217 Gelert Road  
P.O. Box 870  
Haliburton, ON  
KOM 1S0

**Attention: Kim Robinson**

Deadline for applications is April 30, 2021. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



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Marcus Beach Fractional Ownership Cottages on Lake Kashagawigamog has a year-round full time maintenance position available. The position is ideal for an independent, self-motivated individual who has knowledge and skills to look after both indoor (19 cottages) and outdoor property maintenance. The successful candidate will be working closely with the property manager and the Association's Board of Directors

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Please submit a resume by email to: manager@marcusbeachcottages.ca by Thursday, April 29th.

### Marcus Beach Cottage Owners Association

2459 Kashagawigamog Lake Road  
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manager@marcusbeachcottages.ca

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## 400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

**AMAZING OPPORTUNITY** to work at Minden Animal Hospital! Are you enthusiastic/ friendly and driven? We have a full time vet assistant/ animal care attendant position available. The position will be paid hourly starting at minimum wage.  
**Contact Bailey at info@mindenah.com**



## CHEF and FOOD SERVICES TRAINER WANTED

SIRCH Community Services, a charitable organization in Haliburton, has a year-round food services training program, a Community Kitchen that prepares and gives out free, nutritious meals, and a Bistro that is open to the public to give trainees practice in cooking and serving exemplary food. We are looking for a Chef with experience creating nutritious food who would love to mentor others and provide practical training to adult students. You would be working with our Kitchen Coordinator and other cooks, bakers, and trainees on site in Haliburton. It is a full time permanent position.

Send a cover letter and resume to Gena Robertson, Executive Director, SIRCH Community Services. info@sirch.on.ca. For further information call 705-457-1742 or go to www.sirch.on.ca

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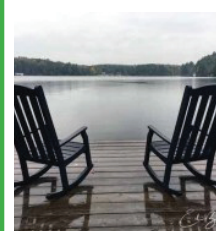
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## 500 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library invite you to join us for our first virtual Friends Café featuring local author Marie Gage.

**When:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Register today at http://bit.ly/Friends-Café-with-Marie-Gage

This is a free event but donations, in support of our library system, will be gratefully accepted during the program.

If you have any event questions, please contact Rozanne Hynard at 705-286-1071

For registration assistance, please contact Jennifer Hughey at 705-854-1205



# Haliburton Echo Classifieds

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## 520 THANK YOU

### Thank you

The Bowen family would like to express its heartfelt thanks for the love and sympathy that has been extended since Doug Bowen's passing on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Doug was a pillar of his community and the outpouring of support since his death has brought our family tremendous comfort during this difficult time. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the compassionate and caring staff at Quinte Health Care North Hastings and to Mike Daly and his team at MG Daly Funeral Home. The family would also like to express its gratitude to the Highlands East Fire Department, particularly those firefighters from Station #2 who took part in the funeral procession to escort Doug to the church. The family remains grateful to Fr. Vic Vales who presided over a beautiful funeral mass for Doug at St. Jean Vianney Catholic Church in Highland Grove. Finally, a sincere thank you to all those who have prepared and sent food, flowers and messages of condolences over the last couple of weeks. It is appreciated beyond measure.

Brenda Bowen, Sarah Bowen and Mary Rutledge

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# No sparks at special board meeting

Accommodation issue draws big crowd — of listeners

by MARK PUBLICOVER  
Staff Reporter

The mountain of controversy surrounding the school board's accommodation plans seems to have eroded into a mole hill, if last week's special meeting held to deal with the issue is any indication.

About 75 people turned out for the meeting, held Wednesday night in HHSS's cafeteria, but only eight people made submissions to the board.

"It makes you wonder why we had this meeting," Dysart Trustee Len Salvatori said afterwards. "I really expected a lot more people to make submissions."

Stanhope Trustee LeRoy Eager agreed, saying he was surprised so many people showed up for what amounted to a re-hash of the public meetings the board held earlier this year to explain their accommodation plans.

"I think we all expected a lot more questions from the public," he said.

Last October, the board considered four options to deal with the growing student accommodation problem facing the county and chose one that called for the construction of a new elementary school in Haliburton, the addition of rooms onto Archie Stouffer Elementary School and the eventual conversion of J.D. Hodgson into a junior high to ease congestion in the high school.

There are currently 240 students in temporary accommodation at Archie Stouffer and 100 at Victoria Street Elementary School in Haliburton and the board predicts that HHSS will experience ex-

cessive enrollment by 1995.

"Between 1986 and 1992, elementary enrollment in the county has risen by 400 students and they'll eventually end up at the high school," board Director Brad Saunders said at the meeting. "It's not just a problem for Haliburton or for Minden — it's a problem for all of Haliburton County."

After the board announced its decision last fall, it was criticized for not involving the public enough. Then last month, Minden residents proposed a fifth option that called for the construction of a junior high in that town so Minden students wouldn't have to be bussed to Haliburton for Grades

7, 8 and 9 (they're currently only bussed to Haliburton for Grades 9 to OAC).

In response to the mounting frustration that appeared to be brewing among taxpayers, the board held the special meeting. But the frustration was evident in only one speaker's submission.

"I was sort of surprised that more people didn't speak but what really surprised me was how docile the meeting was," Dysart Trustee Tim Casey said later.

Only three submissions were made to support Minden's concerns about taking their children to Haliburton, including Anson, Hindon and Minden Counsellor Jean Anthon, Grade 7 Archie Stouffer students Ray Ranson and Stacey Walker and resident and parent Peter McGinn, the only one who exhibited some of the frustration the board has been hearing over the past months.

"I just don't understand the rationale behind the decision to build a new school in Haliburton," he said. "The extra bussing for Minden students will be traumatic. And is there a need for a junior high? Is there a benefit? Is this decision based on educational matters or to make people fit?"

Anthon and the Grade 7 students told the board they want Minden's students to stay in Minden.

"Our students have indicated they want to stay in their own community," Anthon said. "Our citizens have expressed concern over bussing them to Haliburton

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TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1992



THE HALIBURTON COUNTY  
**ECHO**

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## Cottagers hit hardest by loss of capital gains exemption

by MARK PUBLICOVER  
Staff Reporter

Cottage associations across Ontario have reacted in anger towards the federal government's recent decision to eliminate the \$100,000 lifetime capital gains exemption on real estate.

"We protest this decision by the federal government and ask for an exemption for seasonal residences whose owners have been counting on the (exemption) as part of their estate planning," the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) President Barry Mitchell wrote to Finance Minister Don Mazankowski earlier this month. "Our federation and 500,000 Ontario cottagers await your reply."

But FOCA's Executive Director Jerry Strickland told *The Echo* he doesn't think the decision, announced February in the federal government's 1992 budget, will be reversed.

"They're going to make a lot of money with this and I don't think

they can be persuaded to change their minds," he said.

So basically, cottagers will be paying more taxes when they dispose of their property, whether they sell their cottage or simply pass it on to their children.

And the longer you wait, the harder you'll be hit.

**'They're going to make a lot of money from this and they won't be persuaded to change their minds'**

**Jerry Strickland**

A capital gain is the rise in value of something, such as securities or real estate, between the time it was acquired and the time it is sold. In order not to penalize taxpayers who were counting on the exemption this year, the government has provided a transition formula that makes capital gains that have accrued up to budget day (March,

1992) to remain eligible.

For example, if a person bought a cottage in March, 1988 for \$90,000, made \$10,000 worth of improvements and sells it in February, 1994 for \$180,000, he or she will be eligible for a lifetime capital gains exemption of \$53,333. The capital gain is \$80,000 (\$180,000 selling price less the \$100,000 cost) and the cottage was owned for 48 months before budget day and 72 months after. The number of months the cottage is held before is divided by the number of months after and the result is multiplied by the capital gain to calculate the new lifetime capital gain exemption.

In his letter to Mazankowski, Mitchell says the elimination of the exemption has led to a flood of angry calls, faxes and letters to FOCA's office.

"Other than in their real estate planning, the majority of these families have no other opportunity to use the capital gains exemp-

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Wide-eyed and bushy-tailed: Well, Summer Wilcox certainly was wide-eyed at the WeeCare Easter Egg Hunt last Thursday, but her impersonation of the Easter Bunny was achieved by borrowing a pair of bunny ears. The real thing arrived in homes throughout the county on Sunday morning

## Home-buying incentives slow to catch on locally

by MARK PUBLICOVER  
Staff Reporter

New homebuyers have more incentives than ever to enter the housing market but the new measures announced by the federal government earlier this year have yet to stimulate the market in Haliburton County.

In February's federal budget papers, the government announced it would allow Canadians to use funds from their registered retire-

ment savings plans to assist them in purchasing or building a home. Earlier that month, the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) reduced its down payment to five per cent for federally-insured loans for first-time homebuyers.

"These incentives probably won't affect our market as much as others because we're primarily a cottage-based market and these incentives only apply to primary

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**LETTER FROM THE HEART:** Primrose and Bruce Birrell of Soyers Lake have recently received a letter from a Russian woman imploring them to help her desperate family.

## Changes make Soviet life a fight for survival

by NANCY KUZMICH  
Staff Reporter

Most of the free world rejoiced when they heard the news that the Soviet bloc had crumbled. We were relieved not only for our own safety and peace of mind but most of us also felt thankful that the Soviet citizens would now enjoy a kinder, gentler life.

But a Soyers Lake resident has brought to light a disturbing look at the grim reality for many Russians.

Primrose Birrell's tale has been chronicled in past issues of *The Echo*. In sum, her family's paint factory and possessions were confiscated by the Communists after

the 1917 revolution. Nothing could be done until a few years ago when the former Soviet government signed an agreement with England, allowing former property owners and their estates to reclaim some part of the value of their losses. Mrs. Birrell's claim was erroneously published in a Russian newspaper, inflating the amount to 700,000 rubles — much more than she actually received. Since then, she has been deluged with letters from Russians asking for financial aid.

After finding a translator for three letters from one woman, Mrs. Birrell shared them with *The Echo*. Galina Artamonova and her husband are university educated and held good positions in the

Communist system. Their two sons are 14 and 10 and the youngest is disabled. Galina describes their home town of Chelyabinsk as a huge industrial city making a substantial contribution to the Soviet economy. It's a remote region beyond the Ural mountains, therefore it's unlikely that any foreign aid would reach that far. She writes of horrendous line-ups in the bitter cold outside almost empty stores. The average monthly wage is 50,000 rubles or \$6.50 Canadian. (In the pre-Gorbachev Soviet Union, one ruble was officially valued at more than \$2 Canadian). A kilo of meat (when obtainable) costs 20,000 rubles.

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**At first flush**

Septic permits should be mandatory

**editorial**

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**Helping those in need**

4 C's gets a new chairman

**this week**

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**Bantams win championship**

Local boys triumph in final game

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**History in the making**

CBS journalist Allen Pizze reports on the world's conflicts

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Well maintained cottage or home on Hall's Lake with gorgeous lake views. Lovely landscaped terraced lot with two cabins at water's edge. Main cottage features the first level with a large kitchen with wood cabinets, dining room & fantastic screened porch and cozy living room. Second floor has a huge master with ensuite, family room and additional bedroom. Unfinished basement with walkout for potential to fashion more living space. Detached carport.

### BEECH LAKE \$659,000



Get that "Lodge Like" feeling at this 3-bdrm, 1 bath, four season cottage. Octagon shaped open concept great room with exposed Douglas fir beams creates warmth and charm. Woodburning fireplace is the main focal point. The full-sized kitchen with island is great for entertaining. Western exposure provides fabulous sunset views. 131 feet of frontage with a mixture of sand and rock shoreline. Cantilever dock or in your shaded picnic area with hammock. Great waterfront privacy.

### FARQUHAR LAKE \$599,900



This 2-bdrm, 1 bath waterfront cottage is perfectly nestled in a wooded lot and enjoys panoramic views of the shimmering lake. Sand bottom waterfront with 101 ft of frontage. Soak up the summer sun while on the cedar dock or on the lakeside lounging area. A bright open concept with vaulted ceiling. The recently updated kitchen is finished with white cabinetry, solid wood butcher block countertops and stainless steel appliances, with a walkout to the outdoor dining area with lake views. This stunning property is a rare find. It will be love at first sight!

### KUSHOG LAKE \$569,000



The amazing sunsets are a must to see! This seasonal 3-bdrm cottage is perfectly situated on a large level lot with 98 feet of frontage on Kushog Lake. Incredible big waters view up the lake located in a quiet bay. Excellent sandy shoreline, great for building sandcastles with the kids later in the summer. Ample space for the whole family. Spacious kitchen finished with dark cabinetry and features a beautiful skylight. Large indoor dining combined with living room and games room. Private docking system and large sunny lakefront deck.

### DRAG RIVER \$449,000



Bright and spacious 2-bdrm, 2 bath Viceroy home/cottage. Pretty view with 155 feet of frontage on Drag River. Open concept kitchen and dining area and vaulted pine ceilings in the living room. Large river front deck. Spacious master bedroom with his and her closets. Unfinished walk-out lower level. Private riverside setting, great for canoeing, kayaking and swimming.

### COMMERCIAL THE LAKE VIEW MOTEL \$1,950,000



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